

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 57

December 2010

No. 10



Calendar

Wed., Nov. 17	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm: Garrett Park history (Date change from Nov. 24; p 2)	Bethesda, 3:30 pm (p 3); GIVES collection, Penn Place lobby, 9 am–1 pm
Fri., Nov. 19	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place; GPNS Art & Craft Fair Preview Party, Town Hall, 7–9 pm	Sun., Dec. 5 Montgomery Potters, Town Hall, 9–5
Sat., Nov. 20	GPNS Art & Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm; last Farmers Market till May, Penn Place (p 4)	Mon., Dec. 6 Monthly yard waste collection
Sun., Nov. 21	GPNS Fair, Town Hall, 10–5 pm	Fri., Dec. 10 28th Annual Do-it-Yourself Carol-fest, Town Hall, 7:30 pm (p 5)
Thurs., Nov. 25	Thanksgiving; Town Office closed	Sat., Dec. 11 Santa comes to the Town Hall; 3–5 pm (see p 5, poster)
Fri., Nov. 26	Town Office closed	Mon., Dec. 13 Delegates reception, Town Hall, 7:30 pm (p 7); Town Council Meeting, 8 pm
Sat., Nov. 27	Local Artists 2010 Arts & Crafts Show, Town Hall, 11 am–5 pm	Tues., Dec. 14 Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Thurs., Dec. 2	Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Dec. 16 Senior Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30–3:30 pm
Fri., Dec. 3	Montgomery Potters Fair opening, Town Hall, 5 pm	Sun., Dec. 19 Decoration contest judging (ends Dec. 21; see p 6)
Sat., Dec. 4	Montgomery Potters, Town Hall, 9–5; GPES chorus, Veterans Park,	Thurs., Dec. 23 Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place

Collecteurs d'Eaux Pluviales

It sounds *so* much more interesting in French; but I'm afraid it's just storm drains, and I'm afraid almost all of November's Town Council meeting was devoted to them.

I'll try to make what follows the gripping journalism you've come to expect of me, but I'm not optimistic.

Let's start with some other stuff.

The deed transferring nursery school land to Garrett Park, the Mayor announced, has been completed; reciprocal easements between ourselves and the Board of Education remain to be completed. All that's left to be done otherwise is for the Board to draft various documents. The nursery school now has an architect and a planner; the Mayor and a councilperson will meet with them soon.

The Maryland Municipal League meeting that the Mayor just attended was largely about reinstating state funds to municipalities. Another topic was the introduction of the Sustainable Maryland program, in which aid is provided to municipalities to undertake initiatives toward greater sustainability.

Representatives of District 17 will address the December Town Council meeting. Before that, citizens are invited to join the Council and the delegates at 7:30 for some chat.

The Parks and Open Space Committee (POSCO) had a meeting with the new Parks superintendent during which members of the committee and the superintendent took a look at various town parks. "Based on the on-site, immediate feedback," said Mayor Keller, "the Parks Department is very receptive" to our ideas for

(continued next page)

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upkeep and improvement. We might even see new wood chips in Wells Park in a few days.

Phil Schulp reported that the town’s annual Tree Walk was terrific. Led by Phil Normandy, a group of Garrett Parkers looked particularly at the south side of town, including the trees on Keswick. Normandy mainly discussed pruning and planting (see p 4 for more details). Councilmember Schulp reminded citizens that there’s now a database online via the town Web site where you can see what trees we have, whether we have to take a tree down, etc. “If taken down,” said Phil, “trees will of course be replaced.”

The Mayor mentioned the tulip poplars in particular; he said we’re trying to keep as many of these as we can. In any case, said Phil, “no trees are in imminent danger of coming down.”

Beth Irons reported that two members of the Land Use Task Force have put together a summary of the Task Force’s recommendations for the town, with an overlay of the county’s regulations. That will be put online. Another recommendation of the Task Force is now a reality: We have available a list of pending building permits.

Okay: so there are three storm water projects in store for us, and it’s going to be rather expensive—\$325,000 is one estimate. There’s the Shelley Court sinkhole, the result of the ongoing failure of the underground drain there. There’s the lower Kenilworth Avenue project, which involves the town’s management of water overloads. We need to put a new pipe in, and the ominous sounding “riprapping” may be necessary. Finally, there’s the Clermont Avenue drain.

“This exhausts,” said Ted Pratt, “our free money.” (The town is looking into bonds as a way of financing some of these projects.) Can we do this all at once? was the obvious question posed by the Council. “Should we postpone some of this?”

In response, Ted said: “In all three of these projects, the clock is ticking.”

Beth Irons brought up the lovely idea of encouraging residents to plant rain gardens; but Ted said that, while beneficial, the measure (which he supported enthusiastically) would have a somewhat limited impact.

There ensued a general discussion of the complex matter of what costs would be borne by the town in these repairs, and what by some homeowners.

Chuck Berry then addressed the Council and made a series of suggestions about how we might approach these projects more economically. The Mayor thanked him for offering a good number of valuable ideas.

Throughout these long drainage discussions, your reporter reflected: *Why did I think running a town was sexier than this?*

Margaret Soltan

Citizens Association News

Because of the holidays, the November CA meeting was scheduled a week earlier than normal, and there will be no December meeting.

Recent Events

Pumpkin Carving: On Sunday, October 24, the GPCA held the annual pumpkin carving contest. It was the largest turnout to date, with over 30 Certificates of Excellence handed out to GP carvers. Both kids and adults displayed their creative talents, turning ordinary pumpkins into everything from princesses to gory goblins.

Spooky Woods: On Saturday, October 30, the GPCA hosted the annual Spooky Woods. The event was a huge success with a constant stream of children, teens, and adults ready to enter the unknown. Costumed organizers managed the crowds entering Porcupine Woods, which had been transformed into one of GP’s creepiest Spooky Woods. Numerous haunted stations and otherworldly beings were created throughout the woods, while countless ghouls and other creatures wandered among the visitors.

The CA would like to thank all the volunteers who helped to make this event possible. Proceeds from the sale of treats (donated by the Black Market), hot cider, and coffee went to the GP Elementary School Education Foundation. We are pleased to say that the event raised nearly \$300 for the Foundation.

Garrett Park Listserv: Our neighborhood is made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. The listserv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services. The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors.

Comments for the Citizens Association? Please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Chris Strong at Chris.s.strong@gmail.com.

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Secretary: Leslie Bethke-Pope
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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Holiday Gifts: If any resident would like to make a holiday gift to the five men who take away our trash, recycling, and yard waste, please mail it to PO Box 84, or drop it off at the Town Office. Checks should be made payable to Garrett Park with Holiday Fund written in the memo section. Donations are fully tax-deductible. We will handle this the same way as we have in past years. The town will send each contributor an acknowledgement and will see that the fund is properly distributed the week before Christmas.

Holiday Collection of Trash, Recycling, & Yard Waste: Thanksgiving Day trash collection will be on the following Monday (November 29). Trash collection on Christmas Day and New Year's Day will be on the following Mondays (December 27 and January 3), as normal. Yard waste will be collected on the first Monday in December (December 6), January (January 3), and February (February 7). We will return to weekly Monday collection of yard waste in March.

January Christmas Collection: Please put your trees out for collection with the January yard waste on Monday, January 3, if possible. Otherwise, put them out as you take them down and town staff will come around and chip them. Please try to have them out by the following Monday (January 10). All Christmas trees collected are recycled.

Large Item Collection: The next large item collection will be on Saturday, January 8.

Leaves & Traffic: The leaves are falling thick and fast now, and big piles are appearing at the roadside. Please ask your children not to play in piles along the street. Motorists, please use extra care and keep your speed down. Leaf-rakers, please try to keep your piles as narrow as possible so as not to restrict the flow of traffic unduly.

Town Hall Rentals: The Town Hall continues to be very much in demand. Residents who wish to reserve it for events should plan well ahead in order to reserve a date and avoid disappointment. Call the Town Office to make a reservation.

Montgomery County Volunteer Center: Every year the MCVC compiles a listing of ways

to help others during the holiday season. To donate time, money, or gifts, please call the Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600 or visit their Web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov and click on volunteers at the left of your screen.

Elizabeth, Jose, Butch, and Frank join me in wishing all town residents a fine Thanksgiving. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or just want to chat, please feel free to stop by the office any time, or call at 301-933-7488.

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator

Green Again

Our thanks this month go to Barbara Shidler for her donation to keep the banner green. We know that she reads the *Bugle* faithfully each month to keep current with our town events. If you would care to donate, send a check for \$60 made out to the Garrett Park Citizens Association to Box 98, and we will add you to our list. If you wish to dedicate the banner to someone or something, just let me know. Thanks in advance.

If you just can't remember to pick up your copy at the PO, you can subscribe for a copy to be mailed to you First Class each month. Just get in touch with Jane Salomon.

Mary Moyer


GPES

Come out in the winter weather and hear numbers from the school chorus' Winter Concert at Veterans Park in Bethesda on Saturday, December 4, at 3:30 pm. The students and Mr. Smith will be braving the cold to sing. (No, I am not going to be playing the keyboard in the rain and snow!) Since the current school stage is so small, the spring musical is slated to be presented at the BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown, if the school can find a sponsor who will cover the rental cost (about \$3000). GPES is also looking for someone who can cover the cost of a U-Haul truck to move the equipment and sets to and from the center, or who has a truck big enough that can be borrowed for this purpose.

Mary Moyer

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3

- ♪ Fred and Janet Howard have moved again. They are now at 2865 S. Main St., Apt. 111, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. And since Fred is due to turn 100 in December, maybe some of you would like to send him birthday greetings.
- ♪ Marion Green is delighted that her daughter-in law, Jennifer Farren Green, survived the Marine Corps Marathon.
- ♪ Suggested mail dates for domestic mail to make it to its destination for Christmas: December 21 for Priority Mail, and December 22 for Express Mail. Flat rate boxes can be purchased at the window. Also, the PO staff asks us to please return any yellow "package" cards we might have—they are running low.
- ♪ The farmers market will not be coming down during the winter months since they are working on setting up a new greenhouse at their farm. They will start again in May.
- ♪ Warren Kornberg offers kudos to a math teacher somewhere—probably middle school. Here's the story: "It was All Hallow's Eve. Night had just fallen. Out of the general mumble of young voices coming up the walk, one boy's soared above the others: 'There's this thing about intersecting lines...' In my inimitable way, when I opened the door, I barked: 'What's this subversive talk about intersecting lines?' The same boy's voice: 'Well, we don't usually talk about schoolwork, but there's this one teacher; he's something else.'"

Before the Last Leaf Falls

With a group of 30 intrepid souls and a half-dozen friendly neighborhood dogs, this year's tree walk was one of the most well attended in recent memory. Town consulting arborist Phil Normandy guided the crowd like the Pied Piper through the seasonal covering of yellow, red, and brown leaves that are quickly carpeting the area.

The annual tree walk is a unique Garrett Park experience: part botanical education, part social event and celebration of the variety of greenery of which Garrett Park can be rightly proud. As Phil told the assembled crowd at the end of the walk, Garrett Parkers have a real affinity for the trees in town, more than many other local municipalities—and an idea that was started back in the 1970's by town resident Barbara Shidler (with help from Els Benjamin and many others too numerous to mention) has made Garrett Park unique among small towns. The variety of trees that we have is a resource that belongs to all of us and is truly something special.

On a beautiful bright Sunday afternoon, the group proceeded up Waverly to view the heat-resistant varieties of sugar maple that are replacing some of the older trees on this street (which incidentally was voted one of the 10 most beautiful streets in the greater Bethesda area by *Bethesda Magazine* last year—www.bethesdamagazine.com/bhome/sep08/greatstreets.shtml). The crowd wended up Montrose admiring a sweetbay magnolia, Japanese maple, pink-flowered silverbell, native hornbeam and serviceberry, to the corner of Clermont and Clermont Place, where the town has planted several new American elms (cultivars of 'Jefferson', 'Valley Forge', 'Princeton', and 'New Harmony') that are resistant to Dutch elm disease and will thus we hope provide a Currier and Ives style 19th century canopy over that corner in, oh, about 20 years—so hang around!

Crossing over to Keswick, Phil told the group how the town has contracted for tests of the col-

onnade row of tulip trees that line the east side of the street with a new scientific method (akin to an EKG) to assess the soundness of the trees' root systems.

Marching across Oxford, the group marveled at the Japanese katsura trees, whose leaves smell like burnt sugar on a cool morning, and stopped by to say hello to the 1930's-planted willow oaks that were recently spared from the grip of WSSC's planned water valve vault construction.

With the tour ending as the sun settled lower in the sky on this first day of Standard Time, the group stood at the triangle of Waverly and Kenilworth admiring the 'Slender Silhouette' sweetgum that stands like a leafy flagpole at that intersection.

The Arboretum Committee and the town staff are working through the winter to ensure that trees are properly pruned and cared for, and that trees in distress are removed. As some trees are cut down and limbs pruned, fireplace length rounds of wood will be left by the street side for residents to split and use throughout the cold winter months.

Michael Spekter



9am-9pm
Mon - Sat

9am-7pm
Sunday

(301) 493 6217



Art at Penn Place

Huber and Munoz

From November 10 to December 5, Penn Place features the photographs of former Garrett Parker Gabriella Huber and her sister Valentina Munoz, as well as jewelry designed by Munoz and crafted in Peru.

(Note that although the photography is exhibited full time, for security reasons, the jewelry will only be out at specified times.)

Both artists share a love of Peru's artistic past. They say, "The care and safeguarding of ancient traditions is not just a slogan; it's a responsibility we bear for our culture." The sisters grew up in small towns in the countryside, not far from the historic Macchu Pichu ruins and the legendary Nazca lines; their culture is a rich one steeped in traditions that date back to the ancient Incan civilization. Both now live in Maryland, where they have founded Kamari, a Maryland-based company. Kamari means "gift" in Quechua, the native Peruvian language.

The photographs in this exhibit depict the journey of silver, stones, and shells from the terra firma of Peru, and details their conversion into exceptional pieces of wearable art. This transformation is possible through the work of highly skilled craftsmen whose ancient craft needs to be preserved and passed on.

Most of the jewelry and other pieces in this show are for sale. Please visit Kamari on the Web at www.kamarisilver.com for additional jewelry and purchase information. You might also wish to visit gamaarte at www.gamaarte.com.

Almy

Beginning Monday, December 6, the art of David Almy will be on display at the Penn Place Art Gallery. Dave, a long-time Garrett Park resi-

dent, has been drawing Garrett Park events and houses over a period of 40 years. The sketches (flyers) were prepared for town events such as the July 4th, Santa at the Town Hall, and house and garden tours. The originals are pencil and ink on bond paper. Each sketch

was produced in about an hour and published in the Garrett Park Bugle to announce that event. The Victorian homes were all drawn and reduced for reproduction on maps, which were produced for Garrett Park house and garden tours. In addition to architecture and flyer art, Dave had drawn several hundred home portraits.

Bert Zbar

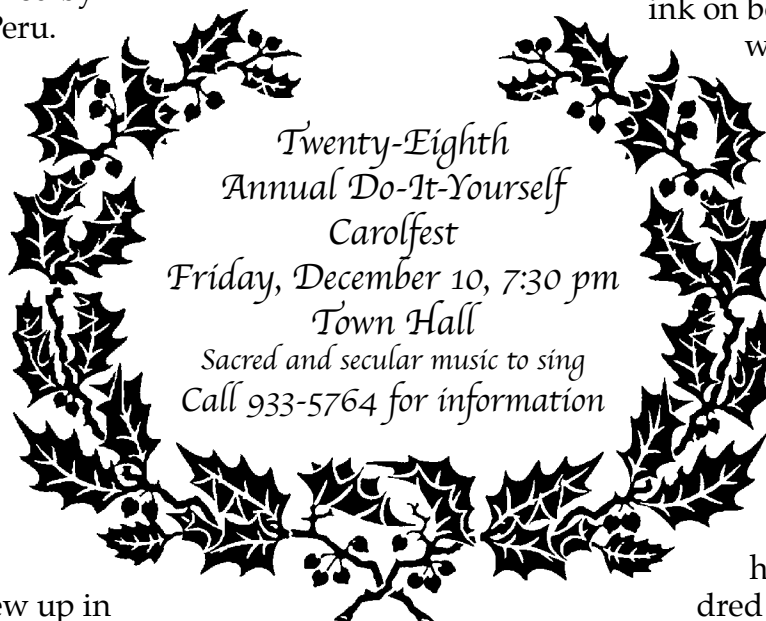
Start the Holidays in Song

We'll supply the music, you supply the voices for the 28th annual Do-It-Yourself Carolfest, at the Town Hall on Friday, December 10, at 7:30 pm. The songs will include a mixture of sacred and secular music. The first half will be geared towards the children, so that after refreshments younger participants can leave and the serious singers can continue with some harder music in four-part harmony. So bring your voices ready to open the holiday season in rousing song.

Mary Moyer

Santa's Visit to Town Hall

Santa's coming to Town Hall on Saturday, December 11! Your little one will enjoy singing holiday favorites with George Oakley from 2 to 2:45 pm. Santa arrives at 2:45 pm to visit—come early to share your list! If you would like to help or provide snacks, please contact Jean Horan. (This event is brought to you by the GP Women's Club.)



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Garrett Park Film Society

The Film Society’s 2011 selections are listed below. If you would like to join, membership levels range from \$25 single (\$40 family) up to \$500 (“Producer” level). Besides admission to all films, each level includes coupons for soft drinks, popcorn (when available), and nuts. Higher membership levels get more perks; for instance, “Producers” get 20 coupons and free dinner for two at each film. For details and membership forms, contact Suzanne Grefsheim—or come to a movie!

2011 Series

January 14. *Great Expectations* (UK, 1946, suitable for all ages). Charles Dickens’ classic coming of age tale, directed by David Lean. Pip, Estelle, Miss Havisham come to life on the screen, with Alec Guinness in his first film as Herbert Pocket.

February 11. *A Man and a Woman* (France, 1966). An iconic love story directed by Claude Lelouch with Anouk Aimée and Jean-Louis Trintignant. Music by Francis Lai. Too romantic for words; perfect for Valentine’s Day.

March 11. *The Full Monty* (UK, 1997, rated R for language and nudity). A group of unemployed miners hit upon the idea of putting on a show, a striptease act, to address their problems. Comedy with Tom Wilkinson among others.

April 8. *Man on Wire* (UK, 2008, rated PG-13). Documentary about tightrope walker Philippe Petit’s walk on a wire between the World Trade Center’s twin towers in August 1974. Described by one reviewer as “intensely fun, good-natured, laugh-out-loud funny at times, poignant and heart-wrenching at others.”

May 6. *Breaking Away* (USA, 1979). An uplifting story set in Bloomington, Indiana, about working class teens with little future in a university town. One of them does have dreams of being an Italian bicyclist (think Tour de France). Look for Dennis Quaid in a breakout role.

June 17. *The Princess Bride* (USA, 1987, rated PG). A fairy tale everyone loves. Lots of sword play, ogres, an evil prince, a dashing pirate, and Billy Crystal as a mad magician. A classic that can be seen over and over again with pleasure.

September 9. *Not One Less* (China, 1999). Directed by Zhang Yimou (think 2008 Olympics ceremonies, *Raise the Red Lantern*, and *Hero*). Set in a remote mountain village in China, the story of a 13-year-old girl’s determination that “not one less student” should be in school when the teacher she is replacing returns.

October 14. *The Motorcycle Diaries* (Argentina, 2004). Che Guevara as a young medical student finding his destiny on a 4,000 mile road trip through South America. Directed by Walter Salles and starring Gael Garcia Bernal.

November 18. *Top Hat* (USA, 1935). Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Irving Berlin—what more can you ask of a classic movie musical?

Deck the Halls...

It’s that time of year again. Check your attic boxes and re-discover your holiday decorations. The second annual holiday decorating contest for Garrett Park, sponsored by the GP Women’s Club, will be held this December. We have beautiful new signs to highlight the awards, which fall into the following categories:

Best House	Most Charming
Best Yard (for really enthusiastic decorators)	Green Award (eco-friendly, and/or low electrical impact lighting)
Best Porch	Honorable Mention
Best Door/Window	Mayor’s Award (the Mayor decides this one, his favorite)
Kids Award (for houses with child-friendly decorations)	
Most Creative	

This year, we will again award the coveted “Green Award” for the creative decorator who minimizes the use of electricity, and uses energy-saving and/or alternative decorations for their house. Eco-friendly materials are especially desired. Please note: this award does not apply to houses without decorations.

Judges will make their rounds between December 19 and 21, and you will be notified by a knock on your door, and/or a sign on your lawn. Signs will remain until January 2 to enable time for neighborhood viewing, and will be recycled for next year. Winners, don’t delay in taking a picture. If you have questions, call Geri Fitzgerald. Good luck!

Geri Fitzgerald

From the Women’s Club

Especially if you are a newcomer to Garrett Park and want to know more about the Garrett Park Women’s Club, contact president Valerie Gottron or vice-president Lillian Del Priore. Look for news of our activities in the *Bugle* or on the list-serv. And if you would like a Garrett Park t-shirt (attractive dark green with a tree design), these are available for \$10 from Elizabeth Henley in the Town Office.

Caroline Turner

Jobs List

Various young people are available to perform tasks such as leaf raking, snow shoveling, and baby sitting. The jobs list is maintained in the Town Office, so you can always call the town staff at 301-933-7488 either to get a referral or to put yourself on the list to be contacted.

Please see the list in the printed *Bugle*. It is the *Bugle*’s policy not to include names of minor children, private telephone numbers, or private e-mail addresses in the *e-Bugle*.

Letter from the Mayor

On November 9, I was pleased to participate in the dedication of a new “green street” in the town of Edmonston. Founded by freed slaves, Edmonston is a small municipality in Prince George’s County that has worked hard to become the first in the region to rebuild its main street to achieve sustainable environmental goals. The new street lights are high-efficiency LED, 100-percent wind-powered; new bike lanes are permeable surface; adjacent to the roadway, new tree boxes and bio-retention gardens incorporate native plants and capture 90 percent of polluted storm water runoff. (More information is at edmonstonmd.gov/GoingGreen.html and edmonstonmd.gov/files/Greening_DecaturSt_inclAddendum_v1.0.pdf.) Garrett Park’s historic streetscape may not be susceptible of all the improvements that Edmonston employed, but the Edmonston project can inspire us in several ways—primarily as an example of what a small municipality can accomplish when it sets its sights on making a real difference in the environment... and then works hard to achieve it. Certainly, we can look at ways to incorporate some of the natural storm water runoff treatment techniques into our streets, without altering our historic William Saunders road plan.

I want to thank the Citizens Association, its officers, and the dozens of town residents who pitched in to make this year’s “Spooky Woods” the best ever. A good time was had by all... including the volunteers who staffed the evening!

If you are reading this online before November 17, I urge you to make a special effort to attend the Citizens Association meeting at the Town Hall that evening. The theme of the presentation—Do You Know Your Garrett Park History?—is intriguing and fun. Come and learn also about the Historic Preservation Committee’s work to establish an interactive map on the town Web site. Committee Chair Nancy Schwartz and others have put a tremendous amount of effort toward this innovative project.

The Town Council and mayor also invite all residents to meet and chat with members of our District 17 delegation to the Maryland State Leg-

islature, which begins its 2011 session in January. Senator Jennie Forehand and Delegates Kumar Barve and Luis Simmons will be available before the regular Town Council meeting on Monday, December 13. Come join us and the delegation for discussion, dessert, and coffee, at 7:30, Town Hall. The delegation will also give us a briefing on the upcoming legislative session.

At this time of year we reflect on—and offer thanks for—our blessings. I want to extend my personal thanks to the Town Council and town committee members; they are dedicated volunteers who have been expending a great deal of time and effort on the broad array of issues that currently face the town. And I know I speak for every resident when I express our thanks to the town’s dedicated workers, every one of whom contributes to the indelible character of Garrett Park in ways that go far beyond their role as “employees.” We are lucky to have such a committed staff.

In closing I extend my warmest wishes, and those of my family, to all for a joyous holiday season.

Chris Keller

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Garrett Park Town Hall

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